

A team of biologists at Fort Stewart, Georgia earned top honors for their efforts in Natural Resource conservation. Environmental correspondent Jesse McGill reports.

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield is home to more than 22 ponds and lakes along with 200 miles of streams and rivers. It's populated with more than 70 different fresh-water fish and contains more than 30 percent of Georgia's plant species. Army environmentalists spend hours in mud soaked boots to maintain this delicate ecosystem that covers more than 280,000 acres, which is one of the reasons Ft. Stewart received the Secretary of the Army's Environmental Award for Natural Resource Conservation.

**Tom Bryce/ Head of Wildlife and Fisheries: "This award really is an indicator of the quality of program we have here on Fort Stewart to support first and foremost the training mission. We want to make sure that the Army can train and now and in the future."**

From electro-fishing...to instruments that measuring water quality... to "noodling" around for mussels... Bryce and his team ensure there is a balance maintained between the Army's training mission and the environment. The end result is a highly diverse habitat full of plant and fish species, prime indications of a healthy ecosystem.

**Ray Fatz/ Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health:** “The Army is at its busiest time in its history right now, and it’s [at] places like here at Fort Stewart who has an outstanding environmental program. “

**Tom Bryce/ Head of Wildlife and Fisheries:** “The successes that we have experienced here have come as a result of team effort. A team of professional fish and wildlife biologists, natural resource specialists that are committed to first the resource and committed to the Army and its mission here at Ft. Stewart.”

Bryce adds what comes in, stays in, and thrives... meaning that Ft. Stewart’s wetlands will continue to blossom for the future. Jesse McGill, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia.